

Center for Women Policy Studies

PROMOTING WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUALITY FOR OVE

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Fiduccia Papers on Women
and Girls with Disabilities**Federal Prosecutions****Maryland****Fox v.
Encounters
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In November 2004, a federal jury awarded Nataliya Fox an award of approximately \$434,000 in her civil suit against Encounters International, an international matchmaking organization (IMO) based in Bethesda. Fox, originally from the Ukraine, moved to the United States to marry James Fox, whom she met through Encounters International. James Fox repeatedly abused Nataliya, and was charged with attempted murder following one assault. Following that assault, Nataliya moved to a battered women's shelter and the couple divorced. Fox's lawsuit alleged that the firm failed to screen its mail clients and neglected to inform her of an immigration law provision that would have allowed her escape her abusive relationship with her husband without fear of deportation. Instead, the firm's owner, Natasha Spivack, told Fox that she would have to endure the abuse or go home to the Ukraine. Nataliya Fox also received \$115,000 in an earlier lawsuit against her former husband. [\[more\]](#)

**United
States v.
Mubang**

Theresa Mubang, a Cameroonian national and permanent resident alien of the United States, was convicted of holding a Cameroonian girl, Evelyn Chumbow, in involuntary servitude and of harboring her for financial gain. From November 1996 to December 1998, Mubang forced Chumbow to work in her home as a domestic servant, where she took care of Mubang's children and performed household chores without receiving any pay. Mubang also beat Chumbow with a metal broom stick and a cable cord to force her to comply with her orders. On February 28, 2005, Mubang was sentenced to 17 ½ years in prison and was ordered to pay \$100,000 in restitution to Chumbow. However, Mubang fled after her conviction and is currently a fugitive from justice. [\[more\]](#)

**United
States v.
Blackwell
and
Blackwell**

Barbara Coleman-Blackwell and Kenneth Blackwell were convicted of smuggling a woman from Ghana to the United States, and forcing her to work as a domestic servant and nanny, with little or no pay. In order to keep her in this position, the defendants hid her passport and threatened her with deportation and imprisonment. Barbara Coleman-Blackwell was sentenced to more than four years (63 months) of incarceration and Kenneth Blackwell to supervised release for three years. Grace Coleman, Coleman-Blackwell's mother, who is a member of the Ghanaian Parliament, faces similar charges and extradition to the United States for aiding the Blackwells. [\[more\]](#)

**United
States v.**

On May 5, 2005, Baltimore resident Richard Arthur Schmidt was sentenced to 15 years in prison and

EXHIBIT

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- Schmidt** supervised release for life after he pled guilty in charges of traveling in foreign commerce for the purpose of, and engaging in, illicit sexual conduct with a minor. Schmidt, who has served 13 years in prison on prior child sexual molestation charges, was charged under the PROTECT ACT after officials in the Philippines and Cambodia arrested him for sexual molestation of a minor. *[more]*
- United States v. Satia and Nanji** Louisa Satia and Kevin Waton Nanji – a Silver Spring couple – were each sentenced to 108 months in prison and ordered to pay \$105,306.64 in restitution to a teenage Cameroonian girl who was trafficked into the United States and held in involuntary servitude in the couple's home. Satia and Nanji had promised the girl that she would be able to go to school in the United States, but once she arrived, they forced her to be a domestic servant and physically and sexually abused her over several years. *[more]*
- United States v. Udeozor** On November 12, 2003, a Germantown couple – Adaobi Stella Udeozor and George Chidebe Udeozor – were indicted on three counts: conspiracy, involuntary servitude, and harboring an alien for financial gain. From September 1996 to October 2001, the couple, who are now divorced, held a 14-year-old girl from Nigeria in involuntary servitude, forcing her to work for little or no pay, and also physically and sexually assaulting her. The indictment alleged that the couple had promised the girl that she would be paid and allowed to attend school. Both defendants face maximum penalties of 20 years imprisonment, a three year term of supervised release and a \$250,000 fine. As of November 19, 2004, George Udeozor was a fugitive in Nigeria and Adaobi Udeozor had been convicted of conspiracy and harboring an alien for financial gain. She was acquitted of holding the girl in involuntary servitude. Adaobi Stella Udeozor is scheduled to be sentenced February 4, 2005. *[more]*

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Department of Justice

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2002
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MEMBER OF MEXICAN TRAFFICKING RING SENTENCED ON INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE CHARGES

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Ralph F. Boyd, Jr. and Marcos Daniel Jiménez, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, today announced the sentence of an individual on involuntary servitude charges.

Hugo Cadena-Sosa of Mexico was sentenced in federal District Court in West Palm Beach, Florida by United States District Judge Kenneth L. Ryskamp to sixty months imprisonment and two years of supervised release. Cadena-Sosa pleaded guilty to conspiring with others to hold women and girls from Mexico in involuntary servitude.

In addition, Judge Ryskamp ordered that the defendant be held jointly liable for paying the victims \$1,000,000 in restitution, an amount previously assessed against his uncle, Rogerio Cadena, and four other co-defendants. Cadena-Sosa was also ordered to pay \$100 in special assessments.

"Sex trafficking is a heinous form of modern-day slavery," said Ralph Boyd, Jr. "We must work together to protect these most vulnerable victims and do everything we can to stop it," added Boyd.

On September 12, 2002, the defendant guilty to conspiring with other family members to hold women and girls from Mexico in involuntary servitude. In April 1998,

Cadena-Sosa and fourteen others were charged, by superseding indictment, with conspiring to lure women and girls from Mexico to Florida with promises of good jobs and better lives. The defendants forced the women into prostitution and held them as sexual slaves in brothel houses in Florida and the Carolinas from August 1996 to February 1998.

Cadena-Sosa, a fugitive since 1997, was arrested for illegal re-entry on May 14, 2002. He was taken into custody on his outstanding FBI warrant and arraigned on the pending federal civil rights charges. Cadena-Sosa is a member of the Cadena family from Veracruz, Mexico, who is alleged to have smuggled young Mexican females into the United States to work in Cadena's brothel houses in Fort Pierce, Okeechobee, Avon Park, Palm Beach, Lake Worth and Fort Myers, Florida.

According to evidence outlined in the plea agreement, and the arguments made at sentencing, the defendant admitted the victims were forced to work at the Cadena's brothel houses as prostitutes until they paid the Cadena family a \$2,000 smuggling fee. In some

cases, the victims were locked in a room with no windows and given no money, and threatened with beatings and reprisal attacks against their families in Mexico. Several victims, many of whom were underage, attempted to escape but were captured and returned to the brothels, where they were punished by beatings and confinement.

"The freedom of those in our country cannot and will not be compromised in any way. This District is committed to the prosecution of those who trade in and profit from the trafficking of human lives," said United States Attorney Marcos Daniel Jiménez.

Seven others who have pled guilty to civil rights conspiracy charges in this case are serving sentences ranging from two and a half to ten years. Six members of the Cadena family charged in the superseding indictment remain at large. The fugitives are Juan Luis Cadena, Carmen Cadena, Rafael Alberto Cadena, Abel Cadena, Antonia Sosa and Patricio Sosa.

The Civil Rights Division and the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida commend the investigative work of the United States Border Patrol and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The FBI continues to investigate the case and is conducting efforts to ensure that the fugitives are brought to justice.

The Criminal Section of the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division, and the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida, Fort Pierce Division, prosecuted this case jointly.

Individuals can report cases of human trafficking or slavery to the toll-free complaint line, at 1-888-428-7581. Information about the Department of Justice's anti-trafficking efforts can be found at www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/tpwetf.htm. <<http://www.usdoj.gov>>

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Neary's story in Cambodia

Neary grew up in rural Cambodia. Her parents died when she was a child, and, in an effort to give her a better life, her sister married her off when she was 17. Three months later, she and her husband went to visit a fishing village. Her husband rented a room in what Neary thought was a guesthouse. However, when she woke the next morning, her husband was gone. The owner of the house told Neary her husband had sold her for \$300 and that she was actually inside a brothel. For five years, five to seven men raped Neary every day. In addition to brutal physical abuse, Neary was infected with HIV and contracted AIDS. The brothel threw her out when she became sick, and she eventually found her way to a local shelter. Neary died of HIV/AIDS at the age of 23.

(Source: U.S. State Dept. TIP Report 2005)

Maria Suarez story

Maria was sold into slavery at the age of 15 in a suburb of Los Angeles. Her owner was an elderly man with a wife. Police would later report that the man was 'an old lecher' who claimed to be a 'brujo' or sorcerer, and that he had a history of buying young girls from Mexico and trading them in when they turned twenty.



Maria Suarez is now a free woman

"I was terrorized by him. The house was like, uh, creepy. I didn't wanna stay there. They keep telling me, you stay here. You meet my wife, 'cause he had a wife. And then, I take you to your house tomorrow. I didn't wanna, but between them two, they convinced me. He beat me, raped me, he every day abused me mentally, physically, emotionally, spiritual because I didn't have, I was not in touch with my family, I was not in touch with people because I was afraid of him. So, at the third day is when he told me that he had bought me, that I was his slave, that he paid \$200 for me, that I was there to do whatever he want to do to me.

Fear all the time, so I figured God has forgotten me. I used to ask God, why did you forget about me? I'm your child. So, at the third day is when he told me. I was afraid that he was gonna kill my family, that I told the police that I was fine, I was okay. I was living, just living one more day. As long as I can last, either he is going to kill me or I am going to die. A neighbor killed the man and I was arrested for the murder. I was not involved with the murder. I was sentenced to 25 to life. I got my GED and started to be a mentor for younger prisoners."

After more than 22 years wrongfully in prison, Maria was paroled. She does not want to sue anybody. She just wants her name to be cleared of the charge. *"I just want a little bit of justice."*

Yelena's story of debt bondage

Yelena is a 25-year old Belarusian with a college degree. She responded to a Minsk employment agency's advertisement seeking nightclub dancers in Cyprus. The agency provided Yelena with a work visa, a three-month employment contract, and a written guarantee that the job would not require any sexual activities. Immediately upon arrival in Cyprus, the owners of the nightclub where she was to work confiscated her passport and told her she would be forced to work as a

prostitute at the club. They also told Yelena that she would have to repay a "debt" to cover her travel and visa expenses. Over the next three months, she was forced to work in the Cypriot sex industry, suffering physical and psychological abuse. The club owners confiscated her earnings as "debt" payments. Once the owners recovered their expenses, they released Yelena with nothing. (Source: U.S. Dept of State TIP Report 2004)

Case history — Was Sonia smuggled or trafficked?

Sonia was invited to come to the United States by friends of her family. She was told that she could work for them as a housekeeper, and they would pay her \$100.00 a week. Sonia was provided with fraudulent documents and departed for the United States with her new employer. She knew that this was illegal, but she needed the money, and was willing to take the risk.

Was Sonia smuggled or trafficked? Answer: Sonia was smuggled into the United States. She left willingly with full knowledge that she was entering the United States illegally. Upon arriving in the United States, Sonia was kept in isolation, was given a place to sleep in a basement, and told not to speak to anyone or she would be turned over to the Immigration Service. Sonia was never paid for her work and felt that she had no one to turn to for help. (Source: U.S. Dept. of State TIP Report 2005)

Case history — Were the girls smuggled or trafficked?

A husband and wife in the United States convince their relatives in India to allow their daughters to travel to the United States to receive an education. The husband and wife are the aunt and uncle to the girls, and have promised the girls' parents that they would provide housing and support for the girls. In order for the girls to receive a student visa, their aunt and uncle enroll the girls in school in the U.S. The girls are granted student visas and allowed to enter the U.S. to receive an education.

Once the girls arrive in the U.S., their aunt and uncle immediately tell them that they will not be attending school. The aunt and uncle never intended to have the girls attend school and only enrolled them for the purpose of fraudulently obtaining the entry visas. At this point, the girls have unwittingly been smuggled into the U.S. using visa fraud.

During the next several weeks, the girls are locked in a basement and continually told that if they try to leave, they would be arrested for their involvement in the visa fraud. Eventually, their uncle takes the girls to local motels where they are made to clean rooms and provide janitorial services. The girls are never paid for their work, all their identification has been taken away, and they are continually reminded that they could be arrested for their involvement in visa fraud. Because the girls are being held against their will through coercion and intimidation and are being forced to work for no pay, they are now victims of trafficking. (Source: U.S. Dept. of State TIP Report 2005)

Louis Etongwe helped free domestic slaves in the Washington, D.C., area. *"I was horrified because I thought — not in this day and age that there could be some who would trick someone's child into slavery — not like this."* Louis points out how even the smallest action to fight slavery can make a big difference.

A telephone worker in Virginia, he first learned about slavery in his own community. A young woman appeared at his cousin's door for Thanksgiving. She had run away from captivity as a housemaid nearby. Louis and his wife offered shelter to the young woman although it placed him at odds within his own Cameroonian community in Virginia. Then he learned of several other Cameroonian girls also held as slaves. Traffickers were tricking young Cameroonian girls into thinking that domestic work within "respectable" families in the U.S. would gain them access to education and a better life. Instead, these young women were forced to work excruciating long hours with no money and no chance for education. Louis established communication with these victims of slavery and arranged for their escape when the master of the household was away. They too were given shelter at Louis' home.

Louis flew to Cameroon, visiting the rescued girls' families. The parents were in shock and still in mourning, as they had been told the girls were dead. The Maryland Attorney General successfully prosecuted the traffickers and Louis continues to make a difference. *"Know your neighbors, ask them questions. I have never felt so excited in my life to be doing what I am doing. When you sow a good seed, it has a multiplying effect and that is the most important thing."*

Given Kapecha's story

Given Kachepa was born in Kalingalinga, Zambia, one of six children. His mother died when he was six and his father died when he was eight. With his brothers and sisters, he moved in with his aunt, who also had six children. As a ten-year-old, Given began to sing in his local church choir, and, strangely, it was this that led to his enslavement.

A charity group from Texas called "Teaching Teachers to Teach" [TTT] had started to help build schools in Zambia. When some of the TTT staff heard Given's boys choir, they were impressed with the beauty of their voices and the rich sound they made singing a cappella, that is, without any instrumental accompaniment. One couple from TTT decided to bring a choir to the United States and put on concerts to raise funds for school building in Zambia. They were right about the choir; in America, people were willing to pay a lot of money for concerts and to make large donations. Sadly, the money proved too great a temptation. Instead of sending money back to the boys' families and building schools, the couple began to keep the money themselves, while demanding more and more work from the boys.



Photo courtesy of Sandy Shepherd and Given Kachepa
Zambian A Cappella Boys Choir. Given Kachepa is on top row, far right, with arms crossed. This was the official photo sold by TTT at their concerts.

Given, aged eleven, was the youngest member of a choir that came to the US in 1998. The rosy promises made to the choirboys before they left home turned into a nightmare for them in America. For nineteen months, the boys were made to sing four to seven concerts a day. If they were tired or sick, they would be threatened. When not singing, they were made to dig a swimming pool hole at the headquarters by hand. They were housed in a trailer. If they complained about anything, their "boss" would cut off the gas so they could not cook. Denied any medical care, several of the boys became seriously ill. When they were much later rescued and given check-ups, three of the boys proved to have positive tuberculosis.

The boys kept singing in the hope that some of the funds collected were being sent home to ease the poverty of their families. After more than a year of bad treatment, the boys realized that no money had been sent home to their families. They began to resist their "boss" who quickly moved to deport the three oldest boys. His crime unraveled when the U.S. Department of Immigration officials began to question the boys and discovered what had happened. At first, it was hard for officials to believe that a choir had been caught up in human trafficking and exploitation. However, as the facts mounted, the boys were rescued and given a chance to stay in the US. Given Kachepa now lives with his foster-family, Deetz and Sandy Shepherd, in Texas, and speaks out against human trafficking whenever he can.

Today, at 19 years of age, Given Kachepa is raising funds to help build schools in his native Zambia. His foster Mom, Sandy Shepherd, explained to this writer how her family took Given into their home: *"We already had 3 daughters in our family, and it seems that God had brought us a son in Given. I [may not] look like his mom, but in my heart, he is my son. We have all been blessed with our relationship with Given."*

Given attends college and excels in his work and grades. He recently told this journalist: *"My T-Visa was granted in August 2003, which allows me to stay in the United States and further my education. Now I can go on with my life."*